

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8431

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1454

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, MA

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 220772, (B) STATE 220773, (C) TANANARIVE 1417

1. CHARGE AND EMBOFF CALLED ON HENRI RAZAFINDRATOVO, MFA DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL RELATIONS, ON SEPTEMBER 10, TO DISCUSS REFS A AND B. EMBOFFS PROVIDED AIDE MEMOIRE ON SUBJECTS CONTAINED REF A AND COPIES OF AIDE MEMOIRES ON DOREA, MIDDLE EAST, AND PUERTO RICO WHICH CHARGE HAD GIVEN TO FOREIGN MINISTER (REF C). RAZAFINDRATOVO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUMMATION OF US POSITION. SUBJECTS OF PUERTO RICO AND KOREA WERE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH, AND ALTHOUGH RAZAFINDRATOVO WAS GENERALLY NON-COMMITTAL ON ALL SUBJECTS, HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA DISSEMINATED BY PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDISTAS AT COLOMBO, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TO JUDGE WHICH SIDE IS CORRECT IN PUERTO RICAN AFFAIR. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR RAZAFINDRATOVO'S COMMENTS ON COLOMBO.)

2. COMMENT: RAZAFINDRATOVO, WHO WILL MOST LIKELY ATTEND UNGA ALONG WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, DID NOT TAKE ANY LINE WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO BE AGAINST US
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INTERESTS, BUT, AS HE HIMSELF COMMENTED, "I AM ONLY A CIVIL

SERVANT." HE SEEMED TO HAVE ACCEPTED LEGITIMACY OF US
CASE RE KOREA; NONETHELESS, MADAGASCAR' VOTING PATTERN
IN UNGA WILL UNQUESTIONABLY SUPPORT NORTH KOREA. OVER
THE PAST TEN MONTHS I HAVE HAD FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH
RAZAFINDRATOVO (WHO STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH)
AND HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND GENERALLY
OBJECTIVE RE HIS OWN PERSONAL VIEWS. DESPITE HIS RATHER
SENIOR POSITION IN THE MINISTRY, HOWEVER, HE
HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE ON FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION, AND
GDRM POSITIONS AT UNGA WILL BE DICTATED BY RATSIRAKA'S
NOTIONS OF CONFORMING WITH OTHER "PROGRESSIST" COUNTRIES.
SHEINBAUM

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